

## **REMARKS**

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application and indicating that claims 3, 5, 7-9, 13, 19, and 21-26 are allowable.

### **I. Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 13, 17-19, and 21-26 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 1, 2, 17, and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 3, 5, 7-9, 13, 19, and 21-26 are currently pending in the present application.

### **II. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C § 103**

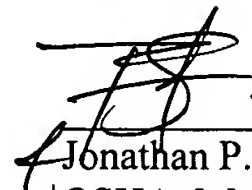
Claims 1, 2, 17, and 18 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. 0 634 291 A1 issued to Defieuw et al. However, by way of this reply, claims 1, 2, 17, and 18 have been canceled, and accordingly, the § 103 rejection is now moot.

### III. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03310.025001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/10/04

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